**Normal Heart Worksheet**

1. Describe the stasis in the play: where, when, who, what, etc. in a paragraph.

The stasis in this play is the sexual movement occurring in the gay community.   
  
2. What is the intrusion?

The intrusion is the moment when Craig dies and Ned realizes how serious this mystery disease really is. This is the event that spurs Ned to become an activist and develop the first group that was willing to speak out about AIDS. However, I think there is more than one intrusion in this play. I think the other intrusion would be when Felix gets sick, and how this affects Ned.  
  
3. What is the unique factor?

This is the day that Ned first finds out about/addresses the new “gay cancer”.  
  
4. What is the dramatic question that should be answered by the end of the play?

The dramatic question is, will speaking out and educating the public make a difference in the spreading of this disease? Will they be able to receive acknowledgment for what is happening in the gay community at this time?  
  
5. Provide an illustration of the two kinds of exposition that the play has in it.

One of the expositions is when we found out Emma had polio which is a virus that found a cure just months after she was diagnosed- this is information that tells us why Emma relates to these dying men. Another one is when we find out that Bruce was a Green Beret, possibly something which contributed to his conservative nature.  
  
6. Identify the most theatrical moment in the play and of what importance it seems to be.

The most theatrical scene is the last scene of the play when Felix and Ned are married, Felix dies, and Ben and Ned make up.  
  
7. List some of the themes of the play.

Themes in the play include: alienation, activism, love, connection, education, anger/desperation, gay community, sexual revolution,   
  
8. What does Ned want and what are some obstacles that stand in the way of his getting what he wants?

Ned wants answers; what is happening, what is this disease, and why is no one really doing anything? He is meeting all kinds of obstacles in the government, and in the straight community. The newspapers refuse to speak out, the leader of the organization refuses to come out.

9. Describe some possible images in the play and how does the title help us understand the play.

The most vivid image that comes to my mind, is the way that the sick look, the giant purple spots. The title of the play suggests that the author is saying that loving someone of the same sex is just like loving someone of the opposite sex- love is love, period. The “normal” heart means he is saying that his heart is the same as any straight man’s heart, it is “normal”.  
  
10. Briefly define the family relationships that are examined in the play.

The family relationships in this play are kind of spread out; by that I mean, there are multiple different types of family relationships shown here. There is the family relationship between members of the gay community, there is the relationship between gay individuals and their parents (specifically Bruce and his mother), there is the relationship between Ned and his brother, and then there are the family relationships explored through the lovers.